

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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United States  
Department  
of Agriculture  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 13, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

Potato planting was completed  
Strawberry fields were in full bloom

### FIELD CROPS

Warm, dry weather provided ideal conditions for spring fieldwork activities. Spring seeded cereals and pulse crop planting were nearly completed by weeks end. Potato planting was completed. Dry bean planting began. Christmas tree growers were busy pruning tree bases and monitoring midge traps. Turfgrass growers were harvesting fields.

### LIVESTOCK

Warm temperatures continued to benefit rangeland in many areas of the state. Range and pasture condition was 2% very poor, 15% poor, 38% fair, 43% good and 2% excellent. Lack of spring precipitation in some areas caused producers to search for summer pasture land in other parts of the state. The first cutting of Alfalfa hay was underway. Beneficial weather increased green chop and grass silage activities. Dairy producers continued pumping manure lagoons.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Chemical fruit thinning activities continued in the orchards. In warmer areas of the Yakima Valley, apple size was reported to be over 5mm and peach fruit size was around 10 mm. Strawberry fields were in full bloom. Cool nighttime conditions on the west side of the state caused berry producers to run wind machines. Fresh market vegetables continued to be planted. Organic vegetable growers hand weeded fields. Asparagus harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	5.4

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	91	98	95
Spring Wheat Emerged	83	67	88	82
Winter Wheat Headed	7	-	6	4
Barley Planted	94	82	97	93
Barley Emerged	70	47	88	76
Potatoes Planted	100	84	100	96
Potatoes Emerged	53	32	67	55
Corn Planted	67	41	94	77
Dry Beans Planted	5	-	11	3
Dry Peas Planted	81	55	96	87
Pro. Green Peas Planted	85	73	100	40
Alfalfa, 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting	6	-	14	4

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	11	85	3
Subsoil	6	32	62	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	5	95	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	3	25	57	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	-	-	59	37	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	-	2	35	63	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Sunny, dry weather provided nearly ideal conditions for field cultivation. Commercial vegetable growers were preparing fields for seeding sweet corn. Christmas tree growers were pruning tree bases. Retail nurseries continued to report strong sales of ornamental bedding plants. Dairymen continued making green chop.

**King:** Producers continued to plant fresh market vegetables. Rhubarb harvest continued. Strawberry fields were in full bloom.

**Pierce/Thurston:** Over the last week, the crop conditions have been favorable for the producer. The good weather enabled the producers to work their fields and plant crops. Pastures appeared to be in good condition. No crop damage was reported due to adverse weather conditions.

**Skagit:** Peas, potatoes, and seed crop planting continued. The weather was dry and relatively warm.

**Snohomish/Clallum:** Dry, sunny weather made

fieldwork activities possible for most areas. Some fields still needed to dry out more, before fieldwork could continue. Pastures were growing well. Green chop and grass silage activities increased.

**Thurston:** Beautiful sunny weather, throughout the week, provided a real bonanza for agricultural producers. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring traps for Douglas fir needle midge. Turfgrass growers were harvesting fields. Organic vegetable growers were hand weeding fields. Livestock producers were spraying pastures for Canada thistle. Dairymen continued pumping manure lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage fields.

**Whatcom:** The first cutting of grass silage continued. Corn silage plantings continued. Approximately 40 percent of the normal acreage of corn silage has been planted. Berry plants continued to leaf out. The berry wind machines ran for two nights, as nighttime temperatures continued to be cold.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Irrigation, weed control, and mildew sprays were the major activities. Asparagus harvest continued.

**Grant:** Chemical fruit thinning continued. Hay cutting began. Sweet corn planting continued. Dry bean planting began.

**Kittitas:** The county continued to suffer from a lack of moisture. Some livestock producers found pastures in other parts of the state, for cattle grazing this summer. Timothy hay was

growing well.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from normal to 17 degrees above normal. There was only a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Apple and pears were just beyond “petal fall” stage in cooler areas. In warmer areas, apple fruit size was over 5mm and peach fruit size was about 10mm. Fruit thinning activities continued.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Dry conditions persist.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Crops and rangeland benefitted from the warmer weather. Crops were in good condition, and spring planting was nearly complete, even in the higher elevations.

**Lincoln:** Spring wheat seeding was nearing the end in the northern part of the county. Winter wheat looked good. Soil moisture was adequate, but rain was needed. The crops were considered average. Precipitation, forecasted this week, will be welcome.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Dry conditions persisted, and spring cereal planting was nearly complete.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The weather was warm and conducive to planting small grains, peas, and lentils. The temperature made crops grow, that have been waiting for more heat units. A fair number of tractors were still working to get fields

seeded. The majority should be completed very soon, if the weather holds. Growers were actually wanting a little rain to give the newly seeded crops a shot in the arm.

**Walla Walla:** April precipitation varied considerably in the county—from 0 inches in the northern areas to 2.89 inches in the southeast area. Asparagus harvest continued. Peas began emerging. Over-winter onions were progressing. Some spring chinook returned to the Walla Walla River, and the steelhead run tapered off. After about a week with no rain, the rain returned on May 14.

**Whitman:** Conditions were favorable for fieldwork throughout the week, and spring plantings of grains and pulse crops neared completion. Warmer weather stimulated the growth of crops and pastures.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

May 14, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	38	64	52	0	19	-2	0	0	0.02	-0.51	1	21.47	-9.03	70	121
Everett	41	65	52	-1	19	-5	0	0	0.16	-0.40	1	19.22	-11.28	63	118
Hoquiam	37	66	50	-3	10	-11	0	0	0.18	-0.59	2	36.95	-24.63	60	136
Kelso	37	79	56	4	42	14	2	2	0.00	-0.56	0	17.09	-23.63	42	107
Olympia	33	73	53	2	26	8	0	0	0.02	-0.48	1	25.63	-20.31	56	117
Seattle-Tacoma	40	69	54	1	33	4	0	0	0.06	-0.36	1	19.55	-13.45	59	106
Shelton	33	75	54	-1	27	-6	0	0	0.03	-0.54	1	34.82	-25.15	58	124
Tacoma	37	72	55	1	33	2	0	0	0.01	-0.46	1	21.01	-14.36	59	115
Vancouver	40	82	59	6	63	35	7	7	0.00	-0.56	0	19.67	-16.79	54	119
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	32	86	57	4	52	23	6	6	0.00	-0.07	0	5.84	-1.58	79	60
Omak	39	86	62	10	83	58	22	22	0.00	-0.35	0	4.36	-6.74	39	49
Stampede Pass	32	68	47	8	14	14	0	0	0.01	-0.81	1	45.56	-27.57	62	138
Wenatchee	42	83	62	5	87	35	21	14	0.00	-0.11	0	4.51	-2.28	66	56
Yakima AP	36	90	60	5	73	33	12	12	0.00	-0.07	0	3.66	-2.92	56	50
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	35	86	60	8	68	44	15	15	0.00	-0.42	0	9.36	-7.25	56	63
Deer Park	29	81	55	3	40	16	7	7	0.00	-0.37	0	10.22	-4.57	69	89
Spokane AP	35	82	57	5	50	27	8	8	0.00	-0.28	0	8.09	-4.90	62	78
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	37	85	62	4	84	24	22	15	0.00	-0.09	0	4.13	-1.71	71	54
Moses Lake	36	84	61	3	75	15	15	8	0.00	-0.09	0	5.60	-0.24	96	51
Quincy	37	83	61	5	82	31	19	13	0.00	-0.13	0	4.75	-1.65	74	49
Ritzville	29	86	56	4	52	27	12	12	0.00	-0.21	0	8.26	-1.09	88	67
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	40	86	66	5	111	30	41	22	0.00	-0.10	0	4.84	-0.62	89	50
Pasco	35	92	62	3	87	18	23	10	0.00	-0.14	0	6.94	0.72	112	61
Pullman	34	78	57	7	51	34	9	9	0.00	-0.35	0	11.02	-6.15	64	91
Walla Walla AP	43	87	62	5	89	35	23	16	0.00	-0.35	0	13.14	-3.11	81	80
Whitman Mission	35	88	60	5	74	29	20	19	0.00	-0.28	0	11.55	0.32	103	83
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	32	81	56	3	46	16	12	12	0.00	-0.44	0	11.51	-9.07	56	81
Lewiston ID	39	84	62	6	88	39	29	24	0.00	-0.28	0	9.39	0.44	105	83

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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